EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
240 South Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
(215) 627-6434 fax: (215) 627-2323

The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.
Bishop Diocesan

LETTER TO ALL CLERGY

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am in receipt of a letter from the Most Reverend Maurice Sinclair, Archbishop of the Southern Cone (South America), stating his intention to meet the Rev. David Moyer's request for him to visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and confirm candidates from that parish and possibly others. A copy of my response to Archbishp Sinclair is enclosed.

It is most regrettable that the Rev. David Moyer chose to invite Archbishop into the Diocese of Pennsylvania without my permission. It is equally regrettable that the Archbishop has chosen to accept the invitation. As I state in my letter to the Archbishop, I am willing to put aside such rude behavior and have invited the Archbishop to celebrate, preach, and confirm at a service in the Diocese of Pennsylvania on a date, at a time, at a place, and in a manner to be arranged between the Dean of our Cathedral, my office, and his, on the condition that all clergy presenting candidates or participating in the service guarantee me in writing beforehand that they and their people will receive me hospitably at my next scheduled Episcopal visitation to their parishes.

This is a Pastoral Direction that no priest or deacon of this diocese is to present candidates for confirmation to Archbishop Sinclair or any other bishop without my permission. If you present individuals to him or any other bishop for confirmation you will violate the first rubric on page 412 of the Book of Common Prayer; aid and abet a bishop of this church in violating Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution, and Canons of the Episcopal Church and Canon III.24.2 thereof; violate Canon I.13.1; III.14.1 (a), and III.14.2(d) and (e), and III.19. and make yourself liable for presentment and charge under Canon IV.1.1 (d) and (e) (attached).

In all charity, and with constant prayer for the unity of the church, I solemnly warn you not to allow any bishop to function in your parishes or present candidates to a bishop other than a bishop of this diocese without my permission.

Faithfully,

Charles E. Bennison, Jr.

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The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.
Bishop Diocesan

October 25, 2000

The Most Reverend Maurice Sinclair
Obispo Primado Iglesia Anglicana
Casilla de Correo 187
4400 Salta
Argentina

Most Reverend and dear Sir:

I have prayerfully considered your stated intention to exercise Episcopal functions in a parish in my diocese. It is most regrettable that you chose to agree to a request from the rector of that parish without consulting me first, but I will put aside such rude behavior and extend to you the following invitation: I invite you to celebrate, preach, and confirm at a service in the Diocese of Pennsylvania on a date, at a time, at a place, and in a manner to be arranged between the Dean of our Cathedral, the rector of the parish where the service would be held, my office, and yours, on the condition that all clergy presenting candidates or participating in the service guarantee me in writing beforehand that they and their people will receive me hospitably at my next scheduled Episcopal visitation to their parishes. If you choose to accept this invitation, please contact my office so that we can begin making appropriate arrangements.

I want to make it unequivocally clear that you do not have my permission to exercise Episcopal functions within this diocese on any other basis. If you choose not to accept my invitation, I ask that you desist from your intended action. Because the questions at issue have not been resolved through our Anglican instruments of unity, I do not believe it is in the best interests of any for you to continue on your well-intentioned but misguided course.

The Episcopal Church, at its General Convention last July, met in an irenic spirit and emerged more unified than many thought possible. Our bishops and deputies, both clergy and lay, turned down extremist actions such as the approval of a resolution directing the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to prepare proposed rites for the blessing of same-sex unions. We, rather, came away with an enthusiastic commitment to our

evangelical mission to double the size of our church in the next twenty years in fulfillment of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

That same irenic spirit and evangelical commitment is pervasive in the Diocese of Pennsylvania as we pursue the implementation of "Our Holy Experiment," our Diocesan Plan (attached). For the first time in decades the church here is growing. The spiritually hungry are streaming through our doors. Church Schools are filling up. Attendance at worship is increasing. New buildings are under construction. Ministries to the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and the downtrodden are expanding.

Your purported action, with its potential for division, comes at a time when our efforts at reconciliation seem to be bearing fruit. We have formed what we call our Reconciliation Team, a group which meets monthly in order to give thoughtful consideration to how best we can live together with the differences in our diocese. As a sign of my personal desie for reconciliation, on the Sundays during my vacation this past summer I worshipped in the pews of the parishes whose clergy will not permit me to visit. At my encouragement, those who have been hurt by extremist positions taken by some in the past and had withdrawn from participation in the councils and fellowship of the church in our diocese are now returning. With humble and penitent hearts, all of us are seeking to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in order to be instruments of peace and unity. It is difficult for me to see what you planning to do as advancing in any way these efforts.

It is important that you are aware of the costs of what you intend to do. If you proceed as stated, you run the risk of seriously distracting us from our plan and therefore jeopardizing, destabilizing, and undermining the mission. You, furthermore, will threaten the unity of our diocese, the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion.

You will also jeopardize the ministries of any priest who is led astray by your action. In the Episcopal Church, priests who present individuals for confirmation to bishops other than their own, without their bishop's permission, violate the first rubric on page 412 of the Book of Common Prayer; aid and abet a bishop of this church in violating Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution, and Canons of the Episcopal Church an Canon III.24.2 thereof; violate Canon I.13.1; III.14.1 (a), and III.14.2(d) and (e), and III.19, and make themselves liable for presentment and charge under Canon IV.1.1 (d) and (e) (attached).

You should know, also, that the "pastoral emergency" that confirmands and others at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont, may feel is one that is not of my making. Beginning in 1994, the Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania agreed with certain parishes (of which Good Shepherd was one) that "permission for Visitations by bishops other than the Bishops of Pennsylvania will be granted [but] only so long as Visitations by the Bishops of Pennsylvania are equally welcome." Also in 1994, the Diocesan Bishop appointed a Unity Commission to address concerns about maintaining the unity of the Diocese while recognizing and honoring diversity within it. The Rev. David Moyer was a member if that Commission. In November, 1994, the Unity Commission brought to the

Diocesan Convention a resolution that, as finally adopted by a wide margin, declared in relevant part:

> "In order that the Church in this Diocese may carry out its mission through the ministry of all of its members, the following policies are to be observed: ... This Diocese has a long history of Visitations by bishops other than the bishops of Pennsylvania, always by permission of the Bishop. The Bishop is encouraged to continue to entertain requests for such visits to parishes, so long as it is clear that regular Visitations to such parishes by the bishops of Pennsylvania are equally welcome."

This continues to be the policy of this Diocese. The "pastoral emergency" has been created, regretfully, by the refusal of the rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd (and certain other parishes) to permit the bishops of the Diocese of Pennsylvania from fulfilling our canonical responsibilities for visitations. By the simple act of allowing visitations by the bishops of this diocese in accordance without our stated policies, the rectors and vestries of the effected parishes would have opened their parishes to the pastoral ministries of other bishops with whom they feel more theologically compatible. They may still do so, but your proposed action is not the path they must take if they wish to remain part of our communion.

In all charity, and with constant prayer for the unity of the church, I urge you and the effected parishes to accept my invitation. Otherwise, I solemnly warn you not to function in this diocese without my permission.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Bennison, Jr.

cc: The Most Reverend and Right Honorable George L. Carey
The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, III

EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
240 South Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
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The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.
Bishop Diocesan

October 25, 2000

The Most Reverend and Right Honorable George L. Carey
Lambeth Palace
London SE1 7JU
England

Most Reverend and Dear Sir:

I appeal to you to use the authority of your office to dissuade the Most Rev. Maurice Sinclair from following through on his stated intention to exercise Episcopal ministry in my diocese without my permission. Archbishop Sinclair's intention is set forth in a letter to me, which is enclosed. A copy of my response to him is enclosed, as well.

The Episcopal Church at its General Convention last July met in an irenic spirit and emerged as unified as many had hoped. Our bishops and deputies, both clergy and lay, turned down extremist actions such as the approval of a resolution directing the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to prepare proposed rites for the blessing of same-sex unions. We, rather, came away with an enthusiastic commitment to our evangelical mission to double the size of our church in the next twenty years in fulfillment of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

That same irenic spirit and evangelical commitment is pervasive in the Diocese of Pennsylvania as we pursue the implementation of "Our Holy Experiment," our Diocesan Plan (attached). For the first time in decades the church here is growing. The spiritually hungry are streaming through our doors. Church Schools are filling up. Attendance at worship is increasing. New buildings are under construction. Ministries to the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and the downtrodden are expanding. Those who, hurt by the extremist positions of some, had withdrawn from participation in the councils and fellowship of the church in our diocese are returning. I have patiently and lovingly done everything I have known how to do to reach out to the relatively small group who have felt alienated from the Episcopal Church. I am glad to report that the number of Forward-in-Faith congregations has dropped from eight to five (out of 162). With humble and penitent hearts we are seeking to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in order to be instruments of peace and unity.

I hope that you will be willing to impress upon Archbishop Sinclair the costs of what he tells me he intends to do. If he proceeds as stated, he runs the risk of distracting us from our plan and jeopardizing, destabilizing, and undermining the mission which now, after many years, is bearing much good fruit. He will threaten the unity of our diocese, the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion. He will also jeopardize the ministries of any priest who is led astray by his action. In the Episcopal Church, priests who present individuals for confirmation to bishops other than their own, without their bishop's permission, violate the first rubric on page 412 of the Book of Common Prayer; aid and abet a bishop of this church in violating Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution, and Canons of the Episcopal Church an Canon III.24.2 thereof; violate Canon I.13.1; III.14.1 (a), and III.14.2(d) and (e), and III.19, and make themselves liable for presentment and charge under Canon IV.1.1 (d) and (e).

I am grateful for your prayerful consideration, and I look forward to the favor of a reply. We in the Diocese of Pennsylvania have you in our daily prayers.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Bennison, Jr.

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DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
240 South Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
(215) 627-6434 fax: (215) 627-2323

The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.
Bishop Diocesan

October 23, 2000

The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, III
Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Frank:

Thank you very much for your telephone call on Saturday. I felt much better after speaking with you, and I am grateful for your counsel. Since we spoke I have received further word through my executive assistant, whose husband is the rector of St. Mark's, Locust Street, that the plan at Rosemont is to consecrate a third bishop; I hope that this is not true, but I feel a contingency plan should be thought through, regardless.

Archbishop Sinclair's intention is set forth in a letter to me, which is enclosed. I am also enclosing a draft of my reply to him with the hope that you might give me your counsel regarding it before I send it. Our Standing Committee and our Reconciliation Team (Frank Turner, Bill Bullitt, Lou Temme, Peg Stevens, Pam Darling, Quartie Clothier, John Tuton, Bob Tate, Ruth Kirk) have contributed significantly to it. If you could contact me with suggestions regarding it before the Standing Committee meets here at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, I would be grateful.

I appeal to you to use the authority of your office to dissuade the Most Rev. Maurice Sinclair from following through on his stated intention to exercise Episcopal ministry in this diocese without my permission. I hope that you will be willing to impress upon Archbishop Sinclair the costs of what he tells me he intends to do. If he proceeds as stated, he runs the risk of undermining our efforts to grow which now, after many years, are bearing much good fruit. He will threaten the unity of our diocese, the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion. He will also jeopardize the ministries of the priests who are led astray by his action.

I am grateful for your support. I realize you are at the Executive Council meeting and that it might take some time for you to get back to me. I look forward to hearing from you. All of us here have you in our prayers.

Faithfully,

Charles E. Bennison, Jr.

THE MOST REVEREND FRANK T. GRISWOLD
PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER
815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK NY 10017-4594

(212) 922-5322 (212) 490-3298 FAX
1-800-334-7626

October 23, 2000

The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.
Diocese of Pennsylvania
Church House
24 South 4th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

SENT VIA FAX
(215) 627-2323

Dear Charles:

Your several letters have reached me and here is my advice. First of all, regardless of what you do or say, Maurice Sinclair is going to visit the Church of the Good Shepherd in Rosemont. And, I fear that your very strong language and the clear lines you are drawing will only encourage defiance and confirm people such as David Moyer that they are engaged in a holy cause. I also have a deep concern that as your letter to Maurice is read in other parts of the Communion it will sound unduly juridical and unpastoral.

I have read your letter with very great care and am in every way sympathetic with your position. I do know, however, from my own experience that the tone of what you write can further fuel opposition. This is particularly true because you know that whatever you write will be quoted – with certain words and phrases taken out of context – and made to appear completely rigid and unpastoral. Then, those who oppose you will appear to be victims of unyielding episcopal authority. Perception here is most important. Unfortunately, you have become in some people's minds – particularly in other parts of the Communion – an icon of liberal intractability. I know that is not who you are and it pains me deeply to have you caricatured in such a way, which is one of the reasons I am urging you to adopt a different tone that makes utterly clear to all that you are imbued with a gracious spirit and an open heart.

My central thought is that since Maurice is going to come in any event, the better part of wisdom is to have him come with your gracious permission and understanding. This not only will avoid making his visit into a holy cause but may well pave the way toward the goal of reconciliation in your diocese, toward which you and your standing committee and reconciliation team are making careful and encouraging progress.

I am faxing you a copy of your letter to Maurice on which I have made handwritten notations. I hope that you will be able to read it. If you have any question, please call. If you accept my recommendations, I further suggest that you simply send your letter to Maurice to David Moyer with a brief cover note. And, if you send copies of the letter to

Maurice to the Archbishop of Canterbury and to me, that will allow me to write to Maurice and underscore your pastoral and irenic response, and share with him my own sense of the situation.

I trust you know that I have taken this very seriously. If we can move through this challenge with a generous spirit, we will be much better able to allay the anxieties of those people around the Communion who feel that ECUSA is vindictive toward those of a traditional bent, and therefore desperate actions are justified.

Please know that you and those who are working with you through these difficult times are very much in my prayers and I am always ready to be of whatever help and assistance I can.

Yours ever,

+ Frank

Frank T. Griswold
Presiding Bishop and Primate

EPISCOPAL
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240 South Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
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The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.
Bishop Diocesan

October 25, 2000

DRAFT

The Most Reverend Maurice Sinclair
Obispo Primado Iglesia Anglicana
Casilla de Correo 187
4400 Salta
Argentina

Most Reverend and dear Sir:

I have prayerfully considered your stated intention to exercise Episcopal functions in a parish in my diocese. It is most regrettable that you chose to agree to a request from the rector of that parish without consulting me first, ~~but~~ I will ~~put aside such rude behavior and~~ extend to you the following invitation: I invite you to celebrate, preach, and confirm at a service in the Diocese of Pennsylvania on a date, at a time, at a place, and in a manner to be arranged between the Dean of our Cathedral, the rector of the parish where the service would be held, my office, and yours, ~~on the condition~~ that all clergy presenting candidates or participating in the service ~~guarantee me in writing beforehand that they and their people~~ will receive me hospitably at my next scheduled Episcopal visitation to their parishes. If you choose to accept this invitation, please contact my office so that we can begin making appropriate arrangements.

Nevertheless,

with the hope and expectation

I want to make it unequivocally clear that you do not have my permission to exercise Episcopal functions within this diocese on any other basis. If you choose not to accept my invitation, I ask that you desist from your intended action. Because the questions at issue have not been resolved through our Anglican instruments of unity, I do not believe it is in the best interests of any for you to continue on your well-intentioned but misguided course.

desist

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proposed visit

Your ~~purported action~~, with its potential for division, comes at a time when our efforts at reconciliation seem to be bearing fruit. We have formed what we call our Reconciliation Team, a group which meets monthly in order to give thoughtful consideration to how best we can live together with the differences in our diocese. As a sign of my personal desie for reconciliation, on the Sundays during my vacation this past summer I worshipped in the pews of the parishes whose clergy will not permit me to visit. At my encouragement, those who have been hurt by extremist positions taken by some in the past and had withdrawn from participation in the councils and fellowship of the church in our diocese are now returning. With humble and penitent hearts, all of us are seeking to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in order to be instruments of peace and unity. It is difficult for me to see what you planning to do as advancing in any way these efforts.

omit

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omit

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Diocesan Convention a resolution that, as finally adopted by a wide margin, declared in relevant part:

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unit

In all charity, and with constant prayer for the unity of the church, ~~I urge you and the effected parishes to accept my invitation. Otherwise, I solemnly warn you not to function in this diocese without my permission.~~ I am

~~Sincerely,~~ yours sincerely in Christ,

Charles E. Bennison, Jr.

cc: The Most Reverend and Right Honorable George L. Carey
The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, III